

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

IO-13 /084 W

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R 170800Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS IZMIR 265

E.9. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT INTERVIEW BV RPP

REF: IZMIR 260

1. ECEVIT BROKE AWAY FROM IZMIR NOV .. 15 FOR SOME HOURS TO PICNIC WITH HIS WIFE IN CESME AREA, RETURNING TO OVERNIGHT IN IZMIR; HE DEPARTED FOLLOWING MORNING FOR ANKARA. ACCORDING BY-LINED YENI ASIR ACCOUNT, ECEVIT INTERRUPTED HIS OUTING TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEW, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH FOLLOWS.
2. REGIONAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED NEW RPP BYLAWS OR "CONSTITUTION" HAVE PRODUCED SUFFICIENT CRITICISM TO CAUSE PARTY LEADERSHIP UNDERTAKE SOME AMENDMENTS WHICH WILL BE

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CONSIDERED AT NOV. 27 RPP NATIONAL CONGRESS. PRESSED BY REPORTER ZAFER ALTAY TO IDENTIFY CONTENTIOUS TOPICS, ECEVIT CITED PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM OF "PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS" OF PARTY LISTS FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND REPRESENTATION OF YOUTH AND WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS.

A. RESPONDING TO CRITICISM THAT ALLOWING ALL REGISTERED RPP MEMBERS TO VOTE FOR PARTY LISTS "MIGHT CAUSE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES AND DRAWBACKS", ECEVIT REPORTEDLY SAID PROBLEM WOULD

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BE SOLVED BY "INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF VOTERS INSTEAD OF ALLOWING ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS TO USE VOTE".

B. ADMITTING THAT "WE DID NOT WANT THEM (YOUTH AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS) TO GET INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL DISPUTES OF THE MAIN (PARTY) ECHELONS, " ECEVIT SAID THAT PARTY OPINION "REVEALED THAT WE MUST SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY EXPENDING THEIR RIGHTS AND BY INCREASING THEIR POWER IN THE ORGANIZATION;" HE SUGGESTED THOSE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE REORGANIZED FROM THE VILLAGE OR PRECINCT LEVEL TOGETHER WITH THE "DELEGATE SYSTEMS."

3. ASKED TO PREDICT 1977 ELECTION RESULTS, ECEVIT (FRESH FROM AYDIN -- A STRONGHOLD OF ORIGINAL DEMOCRAT PARTY AND OF

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TODAY'S PALLID SUCCESSOR) APPEARED TO ASSOCIATE HIS PARTY TODAY WITH BEGINNINGS OF DEMOCRAT PARTY; ASSERTING THAT "SPIRIT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF 1946 MOVEMENT "WAS DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE TO WIN CONTROL OVER GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THAT "FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES MADE IN RECENT YEARS IN THE RPP "HAVE CONVINCED PUBLIC THAT RPP WILL REALIZE A TRUE PEOPLE'S ADMINISTRATION (HALK IDARESİ)". ECEVIT DESCRIBED NOV. 14 AYDIN PUBLIC MEETING AS "REALLY SPLENDID...AN INDICATION AEGEAN PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO BRING THE RPP TO POWER." HOWEVER, HE EVADED A QUESTION THAT ASKED (IMPLICITLY) WHETHER AN RPP-NSP COALITION WERE A POSSIBILITY.

4. STORIES BEGINNING TO CIRCULATE IN IZMIR ABOUT PROCEEDINGS AT AYDIN, ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM ANTALYA, AYDIN, BALIKESİR, BURDUR, DENİZLİ, İSPARTA, IZMİR, MANİSA, MUĞLA AND USAK, INDICATE THAT CRITICISM OF PARTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION RELATIVELY SHARP, BUT CRITICS REPORTEDLY CAREFULLY AVOIDED APPEARING ATTACK ECEVIT; LATTER IS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT DISCUSSION AND AMENDMENT JUSTIFIED--THAT PURPOSE OF REGIONAL MEETINGS WAS TO OBTAIN SUCH INPUT. GENERAL THRUST OF CRITICISM AT MEETING, ACCORDING PRESS, WAS THAT PROPOSED

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CONSTITUTION RENDERS PARTY MACHINERY LESS DEMOCRATIC. SPECIFIC UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUES, IN ADDITION TO THOSE CITED PARA 2 ABOVE, ARE SAID TO INCLUDE 1) OPPOSITION TO ABOLITION OF THE PARTY ASSEMBLY, 2) SENTIMENT FAVORING ELIMINATION OF QUOTA SYSTEM FOR NOMINATING SOME OF PARTY'S CANDIDATES IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS, 3) SUSPENDED OR DISMISSED PARTY OFFICIALS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN PARTY MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS, AS WELL AS RUN FOR RE-ELECTION TO THEIR FORMER OFFICES, AND 4) PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE GREATER CONTROL OVER DEPUTIES ELECTED FROM THEIR PROVINCE.

5. ACCORDING TO YENİ ASİR, DENİZ BAYKAL, EROL CEVİKSE AND

MAHMUT TURKEMENOGLU, ENGAGED IN "DELEGATE HUNTING" (ALL THREE ARE BELIEVED TO BE ACTIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL RPP EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND ANTALYA, BALIKESIR AND DENIZLI DELEGATES WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SEEKING SUPPORT FOR BAYKAL AS SEC GEN). LEFTIST SULEYMAN GENC, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS SAID TO HAVE STAYED APART AND WAS GENERALLY IGNORED BY OTHER DELEGATES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, CONSTITUTION, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 122  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 IZMIR 260  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** powellba  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 28 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by vandykbc>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2004 by powellba>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ECEVIT INTERVIEW BV RPP  
**TAGS:** PINT, TU, (ECEVIT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006